



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation
Service

101 South Main
Temple, TX
76501-7602

Phone (254) 742-9800

<http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov>

Fax (254) 742-9819

NEWS

■ For Immediate Release

For more information, please contact:

H. Harold Bryant, State Public Affairs Specialist

harold.bryant@tx.usda.gov

January 12, 2004

USDA TO HOLD PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION ON THE CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM

Temple, Texas, January 12, 2004—The USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is conducting ten public listening sessions throughout the United States to receive comments and to gain feedback on the proposed rule to implement the new Conservation Security Program (CSP). One public listening session will be held in Texas Wednesday, January 21, 2004, in Kerrville from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. This session will take place at the Inn of the Hills located at 1001 Junction Highway. The session will be held in the Grand Ballroom North.

Authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill, CSP is a voluntary conservation program that supports ongoing conservation stewardship of agricultural working lands and enhances the condition of America's natural resources. The program is designed to reward the best conservation stewards of the most environmentally sensitive areas in targeted watersheds.

"We are holding the listening session to give the public ample opportunity to voice their opinions about the new program," said Dr. Larry D. Butler, NRCS State Conservationist for Texas. "Last year, we used the public's ideas and suggestions to develop the proposed rule and now we are asking for comments that will help guide us in developing the final regulations for program implementation."

(more)

Written statements will be accepted at the listening session or may be submitted by mail, e-mail, or fax to Conservation Security Program Comments, ATTN: David McKay, NRCS Conservation Operations Division, P.O. Box 2890, Washington DC 20013; e-mail david.mckay@usda.gov; fax 202-720-4265.

The CSP proposed rule was published in the *Federal Register* on January 2, 2004; comments are due by March 2, 2004. The proposed rule and additional information on the program can be found at www.nrcs.usda.gov.

To allow for as many speakers as possible, each speaker will be limited to five minutes. The session facility is handicap accessible. If you require special arrangement or need more information, please call 254-742-9800 prior to the session.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-1600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

#